President.—The Member may have personal knowledge of many things. But his object in putting the question is to bring those facts to the notice of the House through the Government. If you are not now in a position to give the facts, say you want notice.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I again ask what action the Chairman took in the matter ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I want notice.

44. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Superintendent of Excise has not been directed by the Diwan in his Proceedings appointing the Excise Committee to take necessary action, so that the Committee may begin work and submit their report as early as possible ;

(b) whether one of the members of the Committee had not written on the 28th May 1926 to the Convener pointing out that there should be regular meetings of the Committee; and, if so, whether a copy of that letter be printed and placed on the table ;

(c) whether a reply has been sent to it or the receipt of it has been acknowledged by the Convener ; and, if not,

(d) why it was not so done ; and if a reply has been sent,

(e) whether a copy of it will be placed on the table;

(f) whether a member of the Committee wrote on the 9th December 1926 to the Diwan of Cochin complaining that the Committee is not having regular meetings, that in the course of 9 months the Superintendent of Excise Revenue convened the Committee only once, and that the Superintendent of Excise Revenue does not care to acknowledge or reply letters addressed to him by the members of the Committee ; and if so,

(g) whether a copy of that letter be printed and placed on the table ;

(h) whether any explanation was called for by the Government from the Superintendent of Excise Revenue ; and if not,

(i) what action was taken by the Chairman of the Committee in this matter when it was brought to his notice ;

(j) whether the Chairman sent any reply to the member about the action taken by him in this matter; and if so, whether a copy of it will be printed and placed on the table ;

(k) whether the Chairman informed the Government how the matter was disposed of by him, and if so, whether a copy of his letter be printed and placed on the table ?

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Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) The Member is referred to the answer given to the first part of question No. 112 (b) of the budget session of 1101.

(b) Yes. A copy of the letter is placed on the table (*Vide Appendix V.*)

(c) A reply was sent.

(d) No answer is necessary in view of the reply to part (c) above.

(e) A copy of the reply is placed on the table (*Vide Appendix VI.*)

(f) Yes.

(g), (h), (i) and (j). The Member is referred to the answer to question No. 309 (d) to (f) of the legislative session of 1102.

(k) No.

45. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Superintendent of Excise Revenue on 5th Dhanu 1102 sent a notice to the members of the Excise Committee informing that a meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, the 19th of that month ;

(b) whether the Superintendent wrote again to the members on 9th Dhanu 1102 fixing the time of the meeting referred to above ;

(c) whether this meeting was held on Monday, the 19th of that month as notified; and, if not,

(d) why it was (not) held on that day ;

(e) whether any non-official member of the Committee requested the Convener or Chairman to postpone the meeting ; and, if not,

(f) whether the Convener ascertained the opinion of all the members of the Committee before postponing the meeting ; and, if not, why it was not so done ;

(g) whether the Convener ascertained by correspondence the opinion of the Chairman or took his permission for postponing the meeting; and if the answer is in the negative, why he did not do so ; if in the affirmative, whether a copy of the correspondence will be placed on the table ;

(h) whether the Convener did not ascertain the opinion of the members of the Committee, when two non-official members of the Committee requested him on June 8th, 1926 to convene a meeting of the Committee to discuss the advisability of abolishing the fee license system for tapping for sweet toddy; and, if so, whether a copy of his letter to the members will be placed on the table ;

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APPENDIX IV.

(Vide Answer to Question No. 43.)

I.

The Cochin Excise Committee.

Proceedings of the First Meeting held on Thursday, 14th Edavam 1101, (27th May 1926), in the Office of the Superintendent of Excise Revenue, Ernakulam.

Present.

1. M. R. Ry V. K. Kochunni Menon Avl., B. A. & B. L., President
2. ,, T. K. Krishna Menon Avl., B. A.
3. ,, Murayil Krishna Menon, Avl. B. A.
4. ,, K. T. Mathew Avl., B. A. & B. L.
5. ,, V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar Avl., B. A. & B. L., Superintendent of Excise Revenue.

After a general discussion about the terms of reference and other matters it was resolved to request the Convener of the Committee to prepare a memorandum generally on the following lines to form the basis of discussion before the report is prepared and submitted to the Government.

(a) Our goal too should be to work up to prohibition.

(b) To suggest ways and means to realise that ideal.

Copies of the memorandum are to be circulated among the members of the Committee sufficiently early before the date of next meeting, which shall be in Kanni next.

The Convener is also requested to circulate among the members the reports of the Travancore, Madras and Bombay Excise Committees.

(Sd.) President.

II.

Proceedings of the meeting of the Excise Committee held on Monday, 4th Makaram 1102, (17th January 1927), in the Office of the Superintendent of Excise Revenue, Ernakulam.

Present.

1. M. R. Ry. V. K. Kochunni Menon Avl., B. A. & B. L., President.
2. ,, V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar Avl., B. A. & B. L., Superintendent of Excise Revenue.
3. ,, M. Krishna Menon Avl., B. A., Chief Court Vakil.
4. ,, T. K. Krishna Menon Avl., B. A., Secretary, Cochin Legislative Council.
5. ,, M. K. Raman Avl., M. A. & B. L.,, Chief Court Vakil,

Resolved:

(1) that the memorandum prepared by the Convener be made the basis of the report of this Committee;

(2) that a copy of the report, when ready, be sent to each member of the Committee;

(3) that each member will kindly send up his suggestions as to additions, consistent with the memorandum, necessary to be made in the report to the Convener a week after the receipt of his copy;

(4) that copies of such suggestions will be sent to the other members a week before the date of the next meeting which will be convened to pass the report;

(5) that the next meeting of the committee shall be held on some day towards the close of Kumbham.

(Sd.) President.

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